Please cancel Preliminary Amendment A mailed March 8, 2004.

In the Specification:

At page 3, the paragraph beginning at line 16 has been amended as follows:

--The problem rises from the fact that the synchronization codes must not appear within the image data itself as stated above. Cameras are starting to support a joint photographic expert group (JPEG) output format, in other words they can compress the image into the JPEG format before sending it, thus reducing the bandwidth and storage memory requirements. However, the JPEG format has been standardized and there is no way to prevent the occurrence of the synchronization codes inside JPEG data. Therefore it is unavoidable that the synchronization code mistakenly appears *bitwise* within the video data signal. For example if data $F8070000F8_{16}$ is sent, (each byte is sent LSB first), it appears on the CCP bus as 0001 1111 1110 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0001 1111_2 with the underlined part corresponding to the bit pattern of the Line Start Code. In this situation the CCP block will mistakenly find and remove a ~~look-a-like~~ look-alike Line Start Code in the video data signal.--.

At page 4, line 11 has been amended as follows:

-- Table 1. Bit ~~patterns~~ patterns ("?" means that it can be "1" or "0").--

At page 6, prior to line 10, please insert new text as follows:

--According to a second aspect of the present invention, a method for false sync code protection [[(SP)]] (FSP) decoding of a video data signal encoded with padding bytes comprises the steps of: examining the video data signal in a byte-by-byte manner to identify a zero byte; determining if the padding byte follows the zero byte based on a predetermined criterion; and removing the padding byte next to the zero byte, if the

predetermined criterion is met. Further, the padding byte may be a binary number 10100101 or equivalently a hexadecimal number A5.--.

At page 6, the paragraph beginning at line 10 has been amended as follows:

--According still further to [[a]] the second aspect of the present invention, if the predetermined criterion [[are]] is met, the method further comprises the steps of: skipping one byte after the removed padding byte; and examining the video data signal in the byte-by-byte manner starting with a byte next to the skipped byte to identify a further zero byte.--.